

January 14, 2015

FCC Headquarters  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Received & Inspected

JAN 23 2015

FCC Mail Room

RE: KIRO-TV / INFORMAL OBJECTION

KIRO-TV (Channel 7), 2807 Third Ave, Seattle, WA 98121, was granted a license by the Federal Communications Commission to serve the public interest as a public trustee until February 1, 2015 (license expiration date).

Serving the public interest involves not just fairness in news coverage, but the appearance of fairness in news coverage. The appearance of fairness is seriously compromised when an evening news anchor also represents another corporate interest. In such a case, the potential for conflict of interest does not serve the public interest.

In particular, Steve Raible is a weeknight news anchor for KIRO 7 and the lead play-by-play radio commentator for the Seattle Seahawks, a National Football League team.  
<http://www.kirotv.com/staff/steve-raible/>

The Seattle Seahawks, in turn, are owned by Paul Allen, with an estimated wealth of \$17.1 billion. Allen is also the founder of Vulcan Inc., with substantial financial and construction investments throughout the Puget Sound area.

The public interest standard is widely accepted as integral to broadcasting. This standard provides the legal basis for promoting greater diversity in programming, more robust political discussion, candidate access to the airwaves, programming that serves local communities, children's educational programming, access to programming for Americans with sight disabilities, and equal employment opportunities within broadcasting. It is integral to all of these obligations that a TV news department remain independent of corporate entanglements that could (or could be perceived as) compromising the presentation of news to the community.

Prior to any KIRO-TV relicensing, the FCC should require that KIRO-TV ensure that its news department is free of corporate conflicts, potential bias, and appearance of fairness issues.

Please send me a copy of your re-licensing decision. Thank you.

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